

Chailey Rural District Council.



ANNUAL  
REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

*FOR THE YEAR 1937.*





ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
TO THE  
CHAILEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.  
1937.

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PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

*Medical Officer of Health* ... W. R. DUNSTAN, M.B., D.P.H.  
*Sanitary Inspector* ... G. KENT, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.  
*Additional Sanitary Inspector* ... J. J. K. HELMER, M.S.I.A.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Chailey Rural District  
Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present the Annual Report for the year 1937, which includes the Report of the Sanitary Inspector, and follows in its arrangement Circular 1650 of the Ministry of Health.

The estimated increase in population of the district is 300; the birth-rate is low (nearly 13 per 1,000); and the death-rate very low. Maternal mortality gives one death from puerperal causes. The infant mortality rate yields the comparatively low figure 50 per 1,000 births. Notifications of Infectious Disease are exceptionally low, namely 21.

Much of the matter in the Report has been prepared by the Senior Sanitary Inspector (Mr. G. Kent).

I am greatly indebted for valuable assistance to both Mr. Kent and Mr. Helmer (Additional Sanitary Inspector), who commenced his duties in the service of the Council on November 22nd, 1937.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

W. R. DUNSTAN,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

## ISOLATION HOSPITAL STAFF.

<i>Medical Superintendent</i>	...	...	...	DR. D. H. RICHARDS
<i>Matron</i>	...	...	...	MISS A. J. GLYNN
<i>Staff Nurse</i>	..	...	...	MISS KIRWAN
<i>Assistant Nurse</i>	...	...	..	MISS HEARN

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Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	66,014
Population (estimated)	...	...	...	...	17,240
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	...	...	5,433
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£125,720
Sum represented by one penny rate	...	...	...	...	£501

*Industries* : Agriculture ; Cement works and brickfields.

There is very little unemployment in the area.

## STATISTICS.

## LIVE BIRTHS.

	Total.	M.	F.	
Legitimate...	207	111	96	Birth Rate, 12·7
Illegitimate	12	5	7	
	219	116	103	

STILL-BIRTHS ... 7 5 2 Rate per 1,000 Births, 53·1

DEATHS ... 184 95 89 Death Rate (corrected) 8·6

## Deaths from Puerperal Causes :

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 Births.
Puerperal Sepsis ...	0	0
Other Puerperal Causes. ...	1	4·6
	1	4·6

## Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	50.2
Legitimate „ „ legitimate births	...	...	43.5
Illegitimate „ „ illegitimate „	...	...	166.7
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	34
„ „ Measles (all ages)	...	...	0
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	0
„ „ Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	...	...	2

## DEATHS.

The causes of deaths were as follows—

Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Syphilis	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
General Paralysis of Insane	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cancer, Malignant Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	34
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	53
Aneurysm	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Other Circulatory Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Peptic Ulcer	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Other Digestive Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Nephritis (Acute and Chronic)	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Other Puerperal Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformations, &c.	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Senility	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Other Violence	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Other defined diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
TOTAL	...	...	...	...	...	...	184

## HEALTH SERVICES.

## (a) LABORATORY FACILITIES.

- (1) Clinical Research Association  
(swab, sputa).
- (2) Dr. S. Allinson Woodhead, Mountfield House, Lewes  
(milk and water samples).

## (b) AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

Lewes Corporation Ambulance (by arrangement).  
This service is adequate.

## (c) NURSING IN THE HOME.

Nurses are provided in cases of severe infectious illness occurring in necessitous families.

## (d) CLINIC AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

- (1) Light Clinic, Castlegate (E.S.C.C.),
- (2) Orthopædic Clinic, Castlegate (E.S.C.C.).
- (3) Tuberculosis Clinic, Castlegate (E.S.C.C.).
- (4) Lewes School Clinic (Lewes Education Committee).  
Children attending elementary schools within the area are seen at this Clinic by arrangement with the Committees concerned.

## (e) HOSPITALS.

- (1) *Fever.* Chailey Isolation Hospital (Chailey R.D.C.).
- (2) *Smallpox.* Sedgebrook Hospital, Plumpton (District Committee).
- (3) *Tuberculosis.* Darvell Hall Sanatorium (E.S.C.C.).
- (4) *Non-Infectious Illness.* Royal Sussex County Hospital, Brighton.

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 SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

## WATER.

There have been no new sources of public water supply provided during the year.

Extension of mains of the Council's new water undertaking have proceeded in accordance with the programme adopted and a further programme of extension is now in hand. This undertaking is fulfilling a great need of the area it serves, and judged by the increasing number of consumers is greatly appreciated.

Close co-operation exists between the Water Engineer (Mr. R. P. Cheale) and the Health Department regarding the quality and purity of the water, and monthly samples are submitted for bacteriological examination.

The following is the Analyst's report for December, 1937 :—

Sample of Water, Treated,  
Offham Water Works.

The sample on arrival had the following characteristics and gave the appended results on bacteriological examination :

Colour ...	...	...	...	...	...	None
Smell ...	...	...	...	...	...	None
Sediment ...	...	...	...	...	...	None

The organisms per ml. which grew on nutrient Agar in three days at room temperature under aerobic conditions and were then visible to the naked eye as colonies numbered 2.

On Agar at blood temperature and under aerobic conditions 1 colony was noticed after two days' incubation.

Examination for organisms of the Coli group gave entirely negative results in 100 ml.

Report.

This water as submitted is highly satisfactory and perfectly safe for drinking purposes and domestic use.

Constant inspection of other sources of water supply is maintained and 63 samples of water from 40 private and public wells were submitted for analysis, with the following results :—

Samples taken from New Wells.

No. found to be satisfactory ...	...	...	9
No. found to be unfit for drinking purposes ...	...	...	14

Samples taken from Old Wells.

No. found to be satisfactory ...	...	...	15
No. found to be unfit for drinking purposes ...	...	...	25
			63
			—

## DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

There have been no sewer extensions during the year.

The scheme for the sewerage and treatment of sewage, for Ditchling and neighbouring parishes, has been agreed upon by the Council and is now ready for submission to the Minister of Health for approval.

It is to be hoped that the obstacles which appear to impede the progress of this scheme will soon be overcome, as the need for improvement of existing conditions is urgent.

The Council have agreed in principle upon a scheme for the sewerage and treatment of sewage from the parishes of Peacehaven and Telscombe.

A scheme for the sewerage of the parishes of Kingston, Rodmell and Iford is under consideration in conjunction with the Peacehaven scheme.

## RIVERS AND STREAMS.

Attention is being given to the pollution of streams by drain discharges from dwelling houses and farm buildings.

## CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

There are no closely built up areas in the district where the conservancy system remains. Among rural workers' cottages pail closets predominate. Some privies still exist, but are being systematically eliminated.

## PUBLIC CLEANSING.

A once fortnightly collection of house refuse over the whole of the Rural District is maintained, one motor vehicle and one horse drawn vehicle being employed for the purpose. The increasing volume of refuse to be collected and the rapid building development in certain areas will necessitate an additional vehicle in the near future.

## CESSPOOL EMPTYING SERVICE.

Advantage was taken of the new provision in Sec. 74 of the Public Health Act, 1936, to institute a cesspool emptying service for the whole of the Rural District. A 750 gallon "Dennis" cesspool emptying machine was purchased and the scheme commenced operation in September.

Charges for the first year were fixed as follows: First load, 10s., each subsequent load 5s., for cesspools within the Rural District. To date the response of the public has been very satisfactory and the use of the machine has been in great demand.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA. (Report by the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. G. Kent).

Number of House Inspections under Housing Regulations ...	46
Other Inspections of Houses not included above ... ..	170
Number of Visits in connection with Nuisances ... ..	72
"    "    "    to Slaughter-houses and Butcher Shops ...	249
"    "    "    to Cowstalls and Dairies ... ..	145
"    "    " <i>re</i> Drainage ... ..	110
Number of Drains tested ... ..	40
"    "    Visits <i>re</i> Water Supply ... ..	90
"    "    Water Samples taken for analysis ... ..	63
"    "    Visits <i>re</i> Infectious Diseases ... ..	39
"    "    Rooms fumigated ... ..	14
"    "    Visits to Sewage Outfall Works and Sewers ...	91
"    "    Visits to Refuse Tips ... ..	45
"    "    Visits under Petroleum Acts ... ..	20
"    "    Visits <i>re</i> Inspection of Schools ... ..	19
"    "    Visits under Shops Act, 1936 ... ..	70
"    "    Visits under Factory and Workshops Acts ...	36
"    "    Miscellaneous Visits ... ..	53

SHOPS.

The inspection of all shops in the area is nearing completion and in most cases it is found that the necessary accommodation required by the Act exists. In some cases, however, it will be necessary to take action under the Shops' Act, 1936, to bring the premises up to the required standard.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

There have been no new complaints of smoke nuisance during the year. The nuisance from offensive fumes emanating from two large cement works has been alleviated considerably. This improvement was effected by the action of the Inspector under the Alkali Works Act. to whom the matter was referred.

## ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

There were no cases of infestation discovered in Council houses or private houses.

Where infestation is discovered—disinfestation is carried out by the Council by spraying and chemical fumigants.

In certain cases inspection of furniture and the dwelling houses of applicants for Council houses is carried out before removal.

## SCHOOLS.

Further inspections of schools were made by the Medical Officer of Health, accompanied by the Senior Sanitary Inspector. Some of the defects notified to School Managers were remedied. In one instance a school was completely redrained, the old pail closets being replaced by water closets and the system connected to the recently laid sewer. The same school was connected to the water main. In another case a school water supply was found to be polluted. The cause of pollution was traced, eliminated, the well cleaned out, protected and a wholesome supply made available.

No closures of schools were made in 1937.

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## HOUSING.

### 1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR :—

- |  |     |
|--|-----|
| (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... ..   | 170 |
| (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...   | 221 |
| (2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ... ..        | 46  |
| (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...   | 61  |
| (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ..                                    | 5   |
| (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation .. ... | 29  |

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES:—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ... 31

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR:—

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... 4

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—

(a) By Owners ... 4

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... Nil

(3) Number of dwelling houses acquired and subsequently rendered fit by the Local Authority ... Nil

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... Nil

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—

(a) By Owners ... Nil

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... Nil

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... Nil

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... Nil

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... Nil

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... Nil

## 4. HOUSING ACT, 1936—Part IV. OVERCROWDING.

(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year ... ..	11
(2) Number of families dwelling therein ... ..	11
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein ... ..	73
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... ..	Nil
(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ... ..	5
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases... ..	31½
(d) Number of Houses which again became overcrowded after Local Authority had taken steps to abate overcrowding ... ..	Nil

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

## MILK

Routine inspection of cowstalls was greatly impeded during the year by the outbreak of foot and mouth disease. As in previous years, particular attention was given to the improvement of buildings and premises, and in this respect much progress has been made. There still remains, however, a great deal yet to be done in this direction.

A considerable programme of works of improvement by agreement with estate owners is now under way and is progressing in a satisfactory manner.

The great importance of clean methods in milking is stressed at each visit and advice and encouragement given to producers where necessary. In some cases the use of stronger measures are required to obtain the necessary improvement in conditions of production.

It was not found necessary to institute legal proceedings in any instance.

## MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

There are 19 slaughter houses in the district, which are scattered over a considerable area. Three of these are engaged in the wholesale trade, the remainder being attached to local butcher shops, consequently meat inspection claims a large proportion of the time of the department and entails a great amount of travelling.

The following carcasses, organs and joints were found to be unfit for human consumption, and were dealt with accordingly:—

10	Bovine Carcases and Organs	Tuberculosis Generalised.
3	„ „ „ „	Emaciation and Dropsy.
1	„ „ „ „	Extensive Bruising and Dropsy.
7	Forequarters of Beef ... ..	Tuberculosis.
1	Rump of Beef ... ..	„
22	Bovine Lungs ... ..	Tuberculosis.
1	„ „ ... ..	Congestion.
12	„ Livers ... ..	Tuberculosis.
2	„ Kidneys ... ..	„
6	„ Heads and Tongues	„
1	„ Spleen ... ..	„
4	„ Kidneys ... ..	Cystic Nephritis.
13	Pigs' Carcases and Organs	Tuberculosis Generalised.
60	„ Heads ... ..	Tuberculosis.
36	„ Plucks ... ..	„
9	„ Forequarters ... ..	„
4	„ Thin Flanks ... ..	„
1	„ Loin ... ..	„

The total number of animals killed is not known.

#### ADULTERATION.

The following samples were taken by the East Sussex County Council within the district :—

Milks 29, of which 23 were correct and 6 incorrect (including two “appeals to cow”).

Aspirin 1, correct.

Butter 1, correct.

Tinned Carrots 1, correct.

No proceedings were instituted in respect of these samples.

#### CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.

Mountfield House Laboratory (Dr. S. Allinson Woodhead, Public Analyst). Examination of all suspected foods submitted.

#### NUTRITION.

A register of all families with children attending the elementary schools has been prepared for use in connection with the County Council's Meals Scheme.

#### SHELLFISH (MOLLUSCAN).

It was not considered necessary to take any action in relation to shellfish.

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#### INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The prevalence of infectious disease in the district during 1937 was low; apart from some intermittent Scarlet Fever. The diseases that occurred were mild in character and uncomplicated. Measles serum has not been utilised. A circular was issued to all Medical Practitioners within the district informing them that material for immunisation against Diphtheria and Schick testing would be supplied on request.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES, 1937.  
(Other than Tuberculosis).

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever ... ..	11	11	—
Diphtheria ... ..	2	2	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	1	1	1
Pneumonia ... ..	4	—	1
Erysipelas ... ..	2	—	—
Pollomyelitis ... ..	1	1	—

AGE INCIDENCE.

Age ...	0-	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65-
Cases ...	0	3	1	2	0	4	3	2	4	2	0	0

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

- (1) Public Health Act, 1935. Section 66.

No action.

Cases of blindness are notified to the Voluntary Society for the Care of the Blind.

TUBERCULOSIS.

- (1) Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

No action was taken under these Regulations.

- (2) Public Health Act, 1925. Section 62.

- (3) Public Health Act, 1936. Section 172.

No action was taken under these Sections.

There were no non-notified tuberculosis deaths.

The notification of tuberculosis in the area appears to be efficient.

## NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1937.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	4	4	—	—	—	—
15	—	3	—	1	—	—	—	—
25	2	5	—	2	3	1	1	—
35	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—
45	1	1	2	—	1	—	1	—
55	2	1	—	—	2	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	5	12	8	7	6	2	2	—

# FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

## I.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises.  (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occupiers prosecuted (4)
Factories ... .. (Including Factory Laundries)	12	4	—
Workshops ... .. (including Workshop Laundries)	24	2	—
Workplaces ... .. (Other than Outworkers' premises)	—	—	—
Total ... ..	36	6	—

## 2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Particulars  (1)	Number of Defects			Number of offences in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—</i>				
Want of Cleanliness ... ..	2	2		
Want of Ventilation ... ..				
Overcrowding ... ..				
Want of drainage of floors ...				
Other nuisances ... ..	1	1		
Sanitary accommodation—				
Insufficient ... ..				
Unsuitable or defective ...	2	2		
Not separate for sexes ...				
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts :—</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101) ... ..				
Other offences ... .. (Excluding offences relating to out-work and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921.)	1	—		
Total ... ..	6	5	—	—

Work of erecting the necessary means of escape in case of fire is in hand in compliance with a notice served last year.

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